

Oregonian 2-7-32



The black bear, native of Oregon, is a friendly fellow.—Finley photo.

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TRIP TO ALASKA
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ENJOYED BY CLUB

1-13-32

William L. Finley Shows Interesting Pictures At Meeting Of Travel Members

Bouncing down treacherous rapids in a novel rubber boat, clambering rocky mountains and following twisted trails on horseback, members of the Travel club went adventuring Tuesday night into remote corners of Alaska.

Accompanying them on their camera trip and adding vivid descriptive notes was William L. Finley, Sc. D., well known travel lecturer.

"The out-door movement is the greatest thing in America today," Dr. Finley told his audience. "It represents a vital part of our development as a nation and there is not one citizen who can afford to disregard it."

Taking the out-door angle rather than a direct educational viewpoint, Dr. Finley held the interest of his listeners by accompanying a series of excellent action pictures from the Northland with an entertaining story of the trip. Adopting orphaned bear-cubs, making friends with fawns and wild birds and hanging from precarious tree perches to "shoot" pictures of mountain sheep, the lecturer and his party explored Alaskan wilds during the "summer" season.

Shattering the delusion that Alaska is a land of perpetual snow and ice, Dr. Finley showed pictures along the southern coastline, where balmy days, bright sunshine and flower filled gardens deny the traditional cold of the Northland. Temperatures average about the same as those of eastern New Jersey, the speaker declared. Probing inland Alaska, he continued, one finds the great ice fields and year 'round snows, where the cold of deep winter holds the country in its clutch from season to season.

Wild animal outposts were visited by the club, including Mt. McKinley National Park, where caribou roam at large and mountain sheep clamber the rocky cliffs. Rare camera views of bird and animal life were secured through patient waiting and weeks of experiment. There was the curious ptarmigan, described by Dr. Finley as "the bird who always wears woolen socks to keep him warm and who cheerfully changes into a white coat when the first snows set in."

Journeying farther into the rugged mountain lands, the club landed on the top of the world, where Mt. McKinley reaches its 23,000 foot height above the hilly countryside and where glaciers hurl huge avalanches of ice and snow across frozen plains. Hunting down the Kodiak and the Alaskan brown bear, largest of all carnivorous animals, the travellers found during their trip the rookeries of sea-lions and the dens of Arctic foxes and fur seals.

During the "summer" season it is possible to explore some of the inland on horseback and it was by this means that the camera hunters returned to the coast and cruised the Bering Sea, finally ending their journey in Seattle, Washington.



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Mountain lion at bay in the top of a tree. Photo by William L. Finley.